FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Carol Allen, Program Director
(517) 749-6938
allencm@towardafairmichigan.org
www.towardafairmichigan.org

"Affirmative Action: Pro & Con"

Toward A Fair Michigan to sponsor a debate on this topic

Grosse Pointe, MI – Toward A Fair Michigan (a Michigan-based non-partisan, non-profit educational organization) will sponsor a debate entitled "Affirmative Action: Pro & Con." The two experts who will engage in debate are Dr. William B. Allen, Ph.D., Dept. of Political Science, Michigan State University and Dr. Vidu Soni, Ph.D., Dept. of Political Science, Central Michigan University. **The debate will be held at 12:30 pm on Sunday, October 22, 2006 at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church (17150 Maumee Ave., Grosse Pointe, MI). It is free and open to the public.**

In November 2006, the citizens of Michigan will vote on a ballot initiative to modify the state constitution to prohibit the state from discriminating or granting preferential treatment based on race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin. By the time that vote comes, nothing is more important than that Michiganders have a fair opportunity to decide for themselves what is the right thing to do in this case. This debate will showcase experts in the legal and social history of affirmative action, debating the need, rationale, effects, and long-term implications of this still controversial public policy.

William B. Allen, Ph.D. is a Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University and former member and chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He has published recent scholarship on higher education, citizenship, Machiavelli, ideals of global community, religious liberty and other topics.

Vidu Soni, Ph.D. is a Professor of Public Administration at Central Michigan University, where she specializes in American Government, Public Administration, and Public Policy. She has published and presented papers on many aspects of affirmative action, diversity in the workplace, and personnel management. She is the 2004 recipient of the Michigan Public Service Award in Academia.

This is one of many debates on the topic of affirmative action preferences that Toward A Fair Michigan (TAFM) will sponsor at locations throughout Michigan. TAFM aims to further understanding of equal opportunity issues involved in guaranteeing civil rights for all citizens, to preserve Michigan's tradition of progressively affirming civil rights for all, and to provide a forum for the fair and open exchange of views on the question of affirmative action. For more information on TAFM, visit www.towardafairmichigan.org.

To arrange an interview with the speakers, you may contact them as follows:

Dr. William B. Allen	517-749-6937	or	allenwi@msu.edu
Dr. Vidu Soni	989-774-3480	or	vidu.soni@cmich.edu

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